Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame

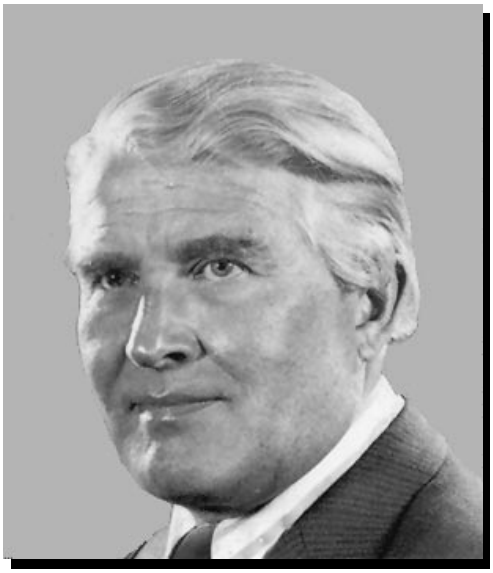
1973 Inductees

Mr. John C. Garand

Mr. John C. Garand was born in St. Remi, Quebec on January 1, 1888. His invention of a semiautomatic shoulder rifle was the first to be adopted as the standard infantry weapon by a major world power. The rifle identified as: U.S. Rifle, Semiautomatic, Caliber .30, M1, better known as the "M1 Rifle" or "The Garand" was standardized and adopted by the U.S. Army on January 9, 1936. Due to his initiative and instinctive inventive genius, the U.S. soldier possessed a firepower advantage during World War II. His remarkable mechanical skill and singular determination resulted in the design of numerous tools, jigs, and gauges necessary for the production of the "Garand Rifle." A remarkable engineering genius in the field of ordnance, his invaluable contributions served an important role in the history of World War II. Mr. Garand died in 1974.

Lieutenant General Joseph M. Heiser, Jr.

Lieutenant General Joseph M. Heiser, Jr., was born on January 22, 1914 in Charleston, South Carolina and retired with over 30 years' active duty in the U.S. Army. Throughout his career, his motto remained, "A well supported combat soldier is the backbone of an effective Army and it is the logistician's job to provide that support." His rapid ascension through the ranks, from a first sergeant to second lieutenant in 1943, is indicative of his outstanding organizational ability and resourcefulness. His name has become synonymous with two of the most successful programs in ordance: the closed-loop system and the logistics offensive. The closed-loop system maximized the utilization of material and substantially reduced acquisition requirements by effecting the overhaul of unserviceable materiel and its return to the supply system. The logistics offensive resulted in marked reduction in tonnages of supplies, greatly improved inventory and location accuracy, materially reduced response time required to meet unit requirements, significantly improved operational readiness rates, and upgraded combat readiness throughout the entire U.S. Army. His career was characterized by professionalism of the highest order. His inspired leadership, competence, and devotion to duty profoundly affected the U.S. Army's logistical effectiveness. He retired in 1973, and remained an active advisor on Ordnance matters. He served as the first Honorary Colonel of the Ordnance Corps from May 1987 until May 1990



Dr. Werhner Von Braun

Doctor Werhner Von Braun was born on March 23, 1912 in Wirsitz, Germany. His contribution led to momentous advancements in the technology of rockets, missiles, and space flight, which changed the history of the United States. Among his early experiments was the development of a liquid-fueled rocket engine. From 1940 to 1943, he and his associates designed and eveloped the V-2 ballistic missile, which profoundly changed the tactics and strategy of modern warfare. His vital contributions resulted in the Redstone missile, the first inertia guided ballistic missile of the free world. As the Project Director, Research and Development Service, U.S. Army Ordnance Corps, he participated in the development of the Bumper-Wac missile, which made possible the first penetration of the earth's atmosphere. As Chief of Guided Missile Development Group, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, from 1950 to 1956, he led development work on the Hermes II rocket-ramjet missile and the Redstone missile. Due to his active participation in the development of the Jupiter-C launch vehicle, the United States successfully launched the free world's first scientific satellite, Explorer I, numerous other satellites, and this nation's first lunar probe. He substantially contributed to the design and development of the Pershing ballistic missile and the Saturn space vehicle. Dr. Von Braun died in 1977.